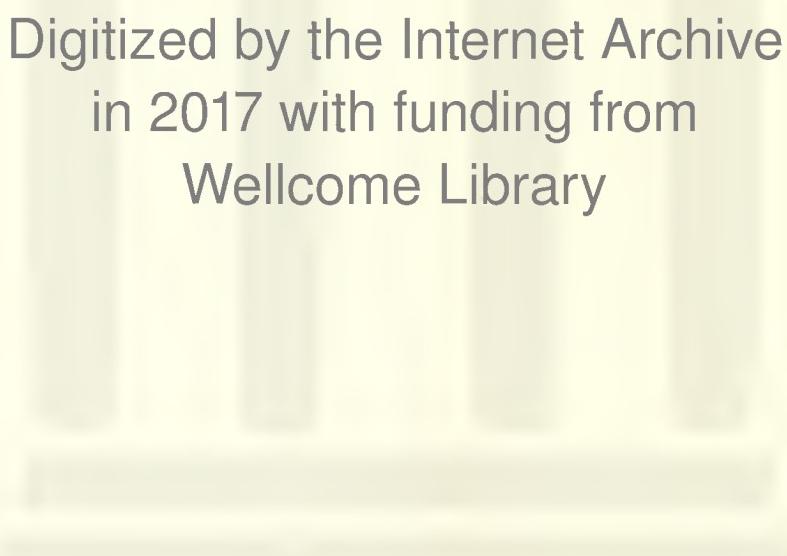


JOINT REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
SANITARY INSPECTOR
ON THE
Sanitary Condition
OF LEEK,
FOR THE YEAR 1894.

LEEK:

CHARLES KIRKHAM, PRINTER AND STATIONER, DERBY STREET.



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REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE LEEK URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

It is gratifying to record the fact in my Report for 1894, that the mortality for the year is less by 42 than that of 1893—which again was 30 less than that of the previous year

The deaths amount to 250—128 males and 122 females. In this number is included 16 brought from the Rural District, making the rate of mortality, according to our present population, 17·1 to each 1000 of the living, but if we exclude these 16 the death-rate for the Urban District of Leek proper is 16 to each 1000 of the living in 1894.

The mean age at death of these deceased persons was 33 years in the case of males, and 36·8 in that of females, averaging 34·9 years for each deceased individual.

The births registered within the year have been 429—203 males and 226 females—showing a birth-rate of 29·4 to 1000 living.

The infantile death-rate, as measured by the number of deaths under 1 year of these 429 births, is 166 to 1000—a much larger record than has been experienced for many years.

The deaths occurred at the following ages:—

Under 1 year	..	..	71
Between 1 and 5 years	..	..	19
" 5 " 15 "	..	..	7
" 15 " 25 "	..	..	12
" 25 " 65 "	..	..	78
Over 65 "	..	..	63

The mortality for the year exhibits some remarkable features. Fifty deaths took place in the month of January, the largest number ever recorded in a similar period, except once, in the year 1859—and in August was registered the smallest ever known, except in September, 1864, when it was the same.

More than half of the whole number of deaths happened in the first 4 months of the year, and I attribute the excess of deaths then observed to the depressing influence exercised generally upon public health by the wave of Influenza epidemic which swept over the whole country, and from which our town did not escape, and which, when not itself fatal, seemed to render persons less able to resist attacks of more ordinary ailments, but specially affecting the very young and the aged.

In the month of January, out of the 50 deaths no less than 17 were children, averaging 7 months each, and 12 old persons, averaging over 77 years; and the causes of death at that time showed signs of a weakened power of constitution.

In the class of *Zymotic* diseases the deaths are only 12, viz.:—4 from Influenza, 5 from Scarlet Fever, 2 from Typhoid Fever, and 1 from Puerperal Fever.

When it is remembered that 92 notifications of the second-named disease were received during the year, the small record of deaths therefrom, and even one of those more than doubtful, is remarkable, and shows, as often previously remarked, the invaluable benefit resulting from the Isolation Hospital.

I thoroughly endorse the remarks in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector as to the inability in most cases to secure real isolation in the homes of the people, and consequently the great difficulty of getting rid of the disease.

Thirteen cases of Enteric Fever were notified, and 2 deaths resulted; 1 of these was a tramp who developed the disease when admitted to the casual ward at the Workhouse, and the other was a young man living in a newly built house, where the drains and other surroundings were satisfactory and in good condition, where the milk and water supply were beyond suspicion, and where the source of the infection remains a mystery, notwithstanding persistent efforts to

discover it. Unfortunately, the case was not removed to the Hospital, and 4 other members of the family subsequently contracted the disease. These were taken to the Hospital, and all recovered. No like cases had previously been known in the locality, and none have been observed since.

Two cases of Small Pox were notified, occurring in members of the same family, who had been spending their summer holiday away from home, and exhibited symptoms of the disease immediately on their return. They were sent to the Hospital, and having been previously vaccinated, the attack proved mild, recovery speedy, and no further spread of the mischief appeared in the family or elsewhere.

Notifications of 2 cases of Diphtheria were sent in, but as they both rapidly recovered and presented none of the ordinary sequela of the disorder, it may fairly be supposed they were not true examples of the disease.

In last year's Report I referred to the lessened mortality from Phthisis of late years, and the only remark as to Constitutional diseases it seems necessary to make now, is to state that in 1894 a still further reduction of deaths has been experienced therefrom—the percentage being only 1 to 1000 living.

In reference to *Local* diseases the significant feature is the small number of deaths from diseases of the Brain and Nervous system. The average return of these for the last 10 years has been 44, whereas during 1894, the deaths only number 16. Deaths from other causes in this class remain much the same as in previous years; the remarks made in the last Report still being pertinent.

In *Developmental* diseases we have an increased number of deaths from Premature Birth and Debility occurring, chiefly at the beginning of the year, being to some extent no doubt the result of that lowered condition of general health to which I have previously referred.

An examination of the detailed work of the department, as set forth in the Report of the Inspector, will give a good idea of its amount and completeness.

One very satisfactory portion in a Sanitary point of view, is the conversion of certain old and offensive privies into Water Closets, and the removal of the ash pits attached to them, which were receptacles for all sorts of filth and garbage. The ashes are now taken away weekly in proper boxes, greatly to the comfort of the house-dweller, and the improvement of the general health.

In connection with this subject I may mention that in all the factories in the town except one, the objectionable system of cesspools has been abolished and Water Closets substituted, and this has been accomplished by persuasion without having resort to the annoying process of legal proceedings. The number of Water Closets in the town amount now to 2000, and their adoption, wherever possible, is being gradually carried out.

I have forwarded monthly reports to the Sanitary Committee showing the condition of public health from time to time, and offering suggestions for its improvement, which I am bound to say are immediately attended to, and the continuous joint scrutiny of the Inspector and myself enables us to become well acquainted with the corrections necessary to keep up the present satisfactory sanitary status of the town.

I append the usual tables of Causes of Death and Ages at Death with the Inspector's Report.

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1894.

Developmental Diseases.	Local Diseases.	Constitutional Diseases,	Zymotic Diseases,													Total.
				Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
			{ Influenza	2	I						I					4
			Scarlet Fever	I	I	I	I	I				I				5
			Puerperal Fever						I							1
			Typhoid Fever							I	I					2
			Phthisis	4	2	1	2	I	I	I	2	I				14
			Tubercular Diseases	2	2	2	4	2	2	I			2			15
			Alcoholism	I												1
			Cancer			I	I	I			2	I	I			7
			Syphilis		I											1
			Rheumatism								I	I				2
			Diseases of Brain, &c.	I	2	4	2	I	I	I	2	I	2			16
			" Respiration	15	12	11	4	4	2	2	2	3	3	2		60
			" Circulation	4	I	3	I	2	2	I	I	3	4	1	3	26
			" Digestion	I	I	I		I			3	4		I		12
			" Urinary Organs....	3				2	I	I	I					8
			" Locomotion	I	I					I						3
			" Generative Organs....	I												1
			Premature Birth	4	I	I	I	I			2					10
			Debility, &c.	4	2	2	3	2	2	I			I			17
			Old Age	6	I	I	I	3	3	2	I	6	2	I	I	28
			Teething		2	I										3
			Sudden or Violent	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	4	I				14
			Total.....	50	31	28	20	16	14	13	8	18	26	11	15	250

AGES AT DEATH.

	0—1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	Total under 5	5—10	10—15	15—25	25—35	35—45	45—55	55—65	65—75	75—85	85—95	Total
January ..	14	1	1	..	1	17	1	..	2	6	6	3	4	3	7	1	50
February ..	15	3	1	..	..	19	..	..	..	3	1	1	2	4	1	..	31
March ..	12	1	1	..	..	14	2	..	1	1	1	3	3	3	..	28	
April ..	6	..	2	..	..	8	1	..	2	..	1	2	4	..	2	..	20
May ..	4	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	1	2	..	1	1	2	3	2	16
June ..	2	1	..	..	..	3	1	..	2	..	..	3	3	2	..	14	
July ..	2	1	..	..	..	3	1	..	1	1	..	..	4	3	..	13	
August ..	2	..	1	..	..	3	..	..	1	..	3	..	1	..	..	..	8
September ..	3	..	2	..	..	5	..	..	3	..	1	1	3	1	1	3	18
October ..	5	..	..	..	..	5	..	1	1	2	2	2	6	3	4	..	26
November ..	3	..	..	1	..	4	..	..	1	..	..	3	1	1	..	1	11
December ..	3	..	2	..	..	5	..	..	2	2	..	1	2	3	..	15	
Total..	71	7	10	1	1	90	6	1	12	18	15	17	28	27	29	7	250

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

ACTION TAKEN FOR THE ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES, &c.

During the year ending December, 1894, the following cases of Nuisances and other matters complained of were dealt with, comprising :—

- 51 cases of defective or want of private drainage.
- 21 " " slop-stone drains admitting sewer gas in house disconnected.
- 17 " " defective water closets,
- 23 " " offensive privies,
- 15 " " accumulation of offensive matter,
- 22 " " offensive cesspools filled up,
- 5 " " want of drain ventilation,
- 8 " " dilapidated buildings,
- 5 " " houses in a filthy condition,
- 2 " " nuisances arising from over-crowding,
- 2 " " , slaughter-house nuisance,

1 case of poultry kept in dwelling-houses contrary to Bye-laws,

1 " " tripe and offal boiling,

1 " " want of proper paving in private yards attached to dwelling-houses,

7 " " houses in such a condition as to be unfit for habitation made habitable,

1 " " want of privy or water closet accommodation,

6 " " want of proper receptacles for ashes,

1 " " want of proper water supply,

3 " " nuisance arising from dense black smoke,

37 houses including 2 schools and 867 articles of infected bedding, &c., were disinfected.

1 case in which pigs were removed to a distance of more than 20 yards from a dwelling-house in accordance with the requirements of the Bye-laws.

A considerable number of nuisances were abated without formal notice being given.

There are 18 notices of nuisances remaining on the books not yet complied with.

OFFENSIVE PRIVIES AND CESSPOOLS.

22 offensive privies were converted into water closets.

21 offensive ashpits were abolished.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Legal proceedings were taken in 3 cases for offences against the Common Lodging-house Bye-laws. The fines and costs amounted to £1 10s.

REMOVAL OF ASHES AND NIGHT-SOIL.

The Scavenging Department removed 3,772 loads of house ashes and garbage, and 399 loads of night-soil.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

There are 5 houses licensed under the Common Lodging-houses Acts, for the reception of 133 casual lodgers. The regulations approved by the Local Government Board for the management of these houses have with one exception been satisfactorily observed. No case of infectious disease occurred in these houses during the year.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are 7 licensed Slaughter-houses within the Town subject to the Bye-laws authorized by the Local Government Board.

BAKEHOUSES AND WORKSHOPS.

The Bakchouses and Workshops within the limits of the Leek Improvement Act have been inspected from time to time and any suggestion made with a view to keeping the same in a satisfactory condition has been complied with by the occupier.

PETROLEUM STORES.

There is one license in force within the Town for the keeping or sale of Petroleum or other substances of a like nature.

GAS SUPPLY.

The purity of the Gas supplied to the Town was tested from time to time in the manner required by the 34th and 35th Vict., cap. 41. No impurity arising from the presence of sulphuretted hydrogen was shewn by the tests during the year 1894.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year ending 1894, 112 cases of infectious disease, consisting of 2 cases of small-pox; 92 cases of scarlet fever; 2 of diphtheria; 13 of enteric fever; and 3 from other causes were reported in the form set forth in the schedule provided in that behalf, and the necessary steps promptly taken to prevent the spread of the disease. 77 of these cases were removed to the hospital, and the remainder treated at their homes. Notwithstanding the efforts of the department, it has been found exceedingly difficult in many cases to secure satisfactory isolation of cases of scarlet fever at home. Thoughtless persons attending upon the patient mixing with others without taking proper precautions, and receiving visitors into the infected house, have been the means of spreading the infection to a large extent. In other instances cases have been of so mild a character that it was not thought necessary to call in the doctor, and the case has gone unrecognised, the children being allowed to mix with others, and spread the infection. The source of milk supply is recorded in every case of infectious disease notified, and we have no evidence of any mischief resulting from its distribution.

FEVER HOSPITAL.

Year ending December, 1894.

Number of Patients in Hospital, Jan. 1st, 1894	14
Do. do. admitted during the year	77
Do. do. discharged do.	77
Do. do. died do.	2
Do. do. in Hospital, Dec. 31st, 1894	12

The average duration in Hospital of each Patient was 36·4 days.

The rate of mortality amongst the Patients treated in Hospital was only 2·53 per cent.

INTERMENTS WITHIN THE TOWN.

During the year ending December, 1894, 3 interments took place in the Burial Ground attached to St. Edward's Church, and 5 in the Ground attached to Mount Pleasant Wesleyan Chapel. The provisions of the Orders in Council relating thereto were duly observed.

TABLE I.—ABSTRACT OF THE CENSUS RETURNS OF 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881 AND 1891, WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE LEEK IMPROVEMENT ACT.

Census Year	Area in Statute Acres	HOUSES.			PERSONS.		
		In- habited	Unin- habited	Build- ing	Males	Fem- ales	TOTAL
1851	1460	1791	39	22	4315	4781	9066
1861	1460	2228	101	27	4080	5488	10174
1871	1460	2386	88	2	5087	6211	11331
1881	1460	2726	136	18	5574	6991	12565
1891	1460	3022	169	24	6420	7708	14128

TABLE 2.—POPULATION, BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

Table shewing the mean Population, the number of Births and Deaths, and the average annual number of Births and Deaths to 1000 persons living, and the mean Age at Death of males, females and persons within the limits of the Leek Improvement Act, during various periods of the 44 years ending 1894.—(W. H. H.)

Periods.	Mean Population	Average Annual Number of Births and Deaths to 1000 living.				Mean Age at Death.		
		Total number of Births		Deaths		Males	Females	Persons
		Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths			
10 years 1851-60	9635	3440	2819	35·7	29·3	23·5	25·9	24·8
10 years 1861-70	10752	3516	25·0	32·7	23·6	29·1	34·7	32·0
10 years 1871-80	12098	4167	27·34	34·4	22·6	30·8	32·3	31·5
10 years 1881-90	13496	4146	2668	30·1	19·8	32·7	35·9	34·3
Year 1891	14154	406	257 <i>a</i>	28·7	18·2	36·9	38·6	37·8
" 1892	14289	417	322 <i>b</i>	29·1	22·5	33·9	38·7	36·7
" 1893	14406	425	292 <i>c</i>	29·5	20·2	36·9	39·8	38·6
" 1894	14573	429	250 <i>d</i>	29·4	17·1	33·0	36·8	34·9

a This number includes 9 persons brought to the Workhouse from the Rural District.

b This number includes 4 from the Rural District. *c* This number includes 10 from the Rural District.

d This number includes 16 from the Rural District.

Excluding the 16 deaths in Public Institutions in the Town, of persons brought there from the Rural District, the corrected annual rate of mortality in the Urban District of Leek for the year ending December 1894, is 16·05 to 1000 living. Provided the vital experience of the Urban District during the year 1894, were continued, the mean duration of life of every person born would amount to 50·4 years, or 9·5 longer life than that given for England and Wales in the "English Life Table, No. 3."

TABLE 3—INFANT MORTALITY.

Table shewing the number of Births; the number of Deaths under the age of 1 year; and the rate of mortality to 1000, within the limits of the Leek Improvement Act, during various periods of the 44 years ending 1894.

Periods.	Number of		Rate of Mortality to 1000.
	Births	Deaths under 1 year	
10 years 1851-60	3440	646	187·8
10 years 1861-70	3516	573	162·9
10 years 1871-80	4167	670	160·7
10 years 1881-90	4146	585	141·1
Year 1891	406	51	125·6
" 1892	417	65	155·8
" 1893	425	59	138·8
" 1894	429	71	166·3

TABLE 4.

Percentage of Illegitimate Births in Leek during each of the under-mentioned periods of the 44 years ending 1894.

Periods of Years.	Percentage of Illegitimate Births.
10 years 1851-60	9·7
10 years 1861-70	8·8
10 years 1871-80	8·5
10 years 1881-90	6·8
Year 1891	5·2
" 1892	4·8
" 1893	6·8
" 1894	6·3

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES' ACT, 1890.

During the year the action taken under the provisions of the above-mentioned Act, resulted in seven dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation being made habitable.

CANAL BOAT ACTS, 1877 AND 1884.

During the year ending December 1894, I inspected 26 Canal Boats within the Urban Sanitary District of Leek. With one exception, the condition of the Boats and their occupants as regards the several matters dealt with in the Acts and Regulations was satisfactory. The exception referred to occurred on April 25th, Boat 30, Stoke, the complaint was at once attended to by the owner. No proceedings were taken against him.

DAIRIES, COW-SHEDS & MILK-SHOPS ORDERS, 1885-6.

There are 65 persons registered pursuant to the above-mentioned Orders within the Urban Sanitary District of Leek. The Regulations of the Local Authority made in that behalf which came into force on the 1st day of August 1891, are being satisfactorily complied with.

SANITARY CONDITION OF SCHOOLS.

During the year upwards of £3,500 has been expended by the managers of four of the Elementary Schools in increasing the accommodation, and materially improving their Sanitary Condition. Similar action is under consideration with regard to other Schools within the town, especially in those cases where a system of proper ventilation is urgently needed.

R. FARROW,

Sanitary Inspector.

In conclusion, I can only recapitulate the statements made in many previous reports, that the great desiderata of most towns, viz., an abundant supply of excellent water, a good system of drainage, an efficient method of scavenging and an Isolation Hospital, we possess, and are therefore in a position to preserve, so far as outward Sanitary arrangements can effect it, a good condition of Public Health.

J. J. RITCHIE,

Medical Officer of Health.

